

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 DLOS-03 L-02 OES-03 FEA-01

ACDA-05 AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 OFA-01 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EPA-01 ERDA-05

FMC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 NSC-05

NSF-01 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

/108 W

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R 250751Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9699

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TOKYO 5517

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: EWWT, EGEN, JA

SUBJECT: MALACCA STRAIT COUNCIL

REF: STATE 93455

1. CHEVRON SHIPPING COMPANY PRESIDENT (L.C FORD) CALLED ON MALACCA STRAIT COUNCIL ON APRIL 23. HE DID NOT CONTACT EMBASSY.

2. ON APRIL 24 EMBOFF DISCUSSED QUESTIONS OF POSSIBLE TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS OF NAVIGATION IN MALACCA/ SINGAPORE STRAITS WITH HIROSHI KAMOI, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF MALACCA STRAIT COUNCIL. BY WAY OF BACKGROUND, KAMOI EXPLAINED THAT JOINT TEAMS OF EXPERTS FROM JAPAN, INDONESIA, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MALAYSIA, AND SINGAPORE HAD RECENTLY COMPLETED WORK

IN LAST AREA OF STRAITS COVERED BY DETAILED HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY BEGUN UNDER COUNCIL'S AUSPICES FEW YEARS AGO. HE SAID RESULTS OF THIS FINAL SURVEY WILL BE RELEASED AS SOON AS THE COUNCIL CAN COMPLETE PROCESSING OF DATA, PROBABLY IN MAY OR JUNE. (REPORTS OF FIRST THREE DETAILED SURVEYS WERE SENT TO DEPARTMENT UNDER COVER OF TOKYO A-20, JAN 14, 1975.)

2. KAMOI SAID THE COUNCIL HAD PREPARED AND ISSUED NEW HYDROGRAPHIC CHARTS OF THE STRAITS BASED ON THE COMPLETED SURVEY AND HE EXPECTED THAT UPDATED OFFICIAL NAVIGATION CHARTS WOULD BE ISSUED BY GOVERNMENTAL MARITIME AUTHORITIES IN NEAR FUTURE. BEYOND ISSUANCE OF THESE NEW CHARTS, KAMOI SAID COUNCIL ITSELF WILL NOT PROPOSE AND TECHNICAL MEASURES CONCERNING NAVIGATION IN THE STRAITS. HOWEVER, HE ADDED THAT EXPERTS FROM EACH OF THE LITTORAL STATES WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY WERE AGREED THAT A TRAFFIC SEPARATION SCHEME WOULD BE DESIRABLE AND HE EXPECTS THAT THEY WILL RECOMMEND SUCH A SCHEME TO THEIR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS. THE SCHEME ENVISAGES USE OF SEPARATE OR QUOTE ONE-WAY UNQUOTE LANES BY VESSELS MOVING IN EACH DIRECTION. BY SEPARATING EASTBOUND AND WESTBOUND TRAFFIC, THE EXPERTS BELIEVE THE DANGER OF COLLISIONS WOULD BE SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCED. KAMOI SAID THE COUNCIL WOULD ASSIST IN PROVIDING ADDITIONAL NAVIGATIONAL AIDS IN THE STRAITS TO FACILITATE OPERATION OF A SEPARATION SCHEME IF GOVERNMENTS OF THE LITTORAL STATES DECIDE TO PUT IT INTO FORCE. HODGSON

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